

President's Report - James L. Mohler

I wish to bring to the membership's attention the outstanding programs available at the Annual Meeting of the AUA in Orlando, FL May 17, 2008, which was developed by **Carrie Rinker-Schaeffer, Ph.D.**, and at the annual SBUR meeting in Phoenix, AZ this fall, which was developed by **Shuk-mei Ho, Ph.D.**. At the Annual AUA meeting SBUR will again jointly host the morning session with the Society of Urologic Oncology (SUO), a session which will conclude with the **Coffey Lecture**. The 2009 SBUR Annual Meeting will be conducted jointly with the European Society for Urologic Research (ESUR) as the **8th World Basic Urological Research Congress** on November 4-8, 2008 at the Sheraton in New Orleans. The SBUR and ESUR share a strong commitment to assist New Orleans with a steady but all too slow recovery.

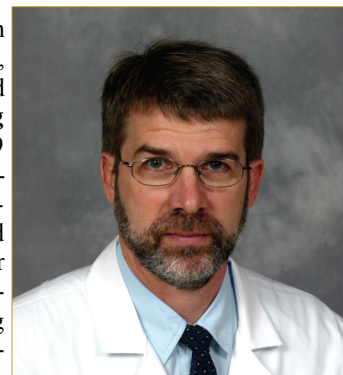
The SBUR is privileged to have a strong slate of candidates for elected office again this year. I encourage the members to vote; our goal should be to smash the percent of Americans that vote every four years in our presidential election.

The SBUR continues to support the AUA in developing a greater emphasis upon translational research. **Robert Flanigan, M.D.**, has provided outstanding leadership on our behalf at the AUA. The SBUR's two nominees for the special session on research by young investigators will participate in the first research forum at the annual meeting in May. **Hyung Kim, M.D.**, will present on "Expression profiling using paraffin embedded renal tumors" and **Jodi Maranchie, M.D.**, will present on "Silencing of nox4 abrogates the tumorigenic phenotype of vhl-deficient renal cancer cells". All SBUR members are encouraged to attend. **Anthony J. Schaeffer, M.D.**, and the AUA Foundation are developing a strong effort to encourage urologists to pursue academic careers. The SBUR will once again co-host a summer research

forum. The 2008 Rising Stars in Urology **Ganesh Palapattu, M.D.**, and **Christopher Smith, M.D.**, and the 2008 Surgeon-Scientist **Hyung Kim, M.D.**, were all chosen from 9 applicants, an all-time record. Applicants are required to have obtained peer-reviewed funding and be within 5 years of beginning their academic careers. The award requires attendance at career building events and provides salary supplement to assist them in not falling victim to "clinical creep." In addition, the SBUR is assisting the AUA with developing a basic science curriculum to be part of the training of all urology residents. This effort is led by **Robert Getzenberg, Ph.D.**, and I know that he would appreciate the help of all where needed to prepare the best possible program for urologic resident education.

All members should make sure they are current with their dues so that they can vote for our new officers. Please encourage investigators engaged in translational urologic research at their institutions to become members and participate in the two SBUR meetings that occur each year.

My term as President concludes at the AUA and I would like to thank the members for this opportunity. I know that Carrie Rinker-Schaeffer will continue in the strong tradition of past presidents and I look forward to assisting her in every way possible.



James L. Mohler, M.D.
Chair, Department of Urologic Oncology; Leader, Prostate Program; Professor of Oncology; Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Professor, Department of Urology; School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, State University of New York. Professor of Surgery and Member, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, UNC at Chapel Hill.

Awards and Honors



Dr. Robert J. Matusik was named the recipient of the **SBUR 2007 Meritorious Achievement Award**. Dr. Matusik is professor of Urologic Surgery, Cancer Biology and Cell & Developmental Biology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and director of Urologic Research in the department of Urologic Surgery. Dr. Matusik will be presented with this prestigious award at the SBUR Spring 2008 meeting during the Business Luncheon, on Saturday, May 17th, in Orlando, Florida. Don't miss this event!

Dr. Dolores J. Lamb is named the recipient of the **2008 Society of Women in Urology (SWIU)/SBUR Award for Excellence in Urologic Research**. Dr. Lamb is professor of Urology and Molecular & Cellular Biology, at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Lamb will be presented with this prestigious award at the SWIU Breakfast on Sunday, May 18th, at the AUA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. Don't miss this event!



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SBUR Fall 08 (Phoenix, AZ) Preview - Shuk-mei Ho



Photo Credit: Niandong Chai

The 18th Annual Meeting (Fall) of the Society for Basic Urologic Research (SBUR) will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, on **November 20th-23rd, 2008**. The scientific theme of the meeting will be ***“Epigenetics and Genitourinary Disorders.”***

The meeting will be held at the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort, Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona location, with its warm weather and access to outdoor pursuits is an attractive venue for a fall/winter season conference for scientists primarily from North America. Warm weather during this time of the year will be a positive factor contributing to overall meeting attendance. The meeting site, the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort is chosen for its location, meeting facilities and quality services. The Phoenix Skyport Airport is serviced by many major US airlines and is a regional hub of travel.

The SBUR 2008 fall meeting will be unique and timely as it will fo-

cus on **an emerging new field** which has not been covered in our previous meetings. Epigenetics is one of two topics chosen by the Directors of Institutes and Centers at the NIH to move forward as Major Roadmap Initiatives during a vision setting meeting on May 18, 2007. The SBUR shares their point of view and recognizes the potential of epigenetics research in accelerating the advancements in urological investigations in the coming years.

Epigenetics is one of the fastest growing, leading edge sciences crucial to decoding the molecular basis of complex diseases in the current post-genomic era of biomedical sciences. The term is used to describe mechanisms that influence the phenotypic outcome of a genome, in the absence of alterations in the primary DNA sequence. It explains individual variations in disease susceptibility, variable courses of disease progression, and differences in response to treatments or therapies. A better understanding of the intertwined relationship between

genomics and epigenetics is a necessary first step towards “personalized” medicine and effective care for patients, including those with diseases in the bladder, prostate, and other organs in the genitourinary (GU) tract.

The primary objective of the meeting is to provide a forum for attendees to learn about the latest advancements in the field of epigenetics and discover how it could be applied to investigative research in GU diseases. Scientific exchange at this meeting will open up more avenues for the discovery of new diagnostic/prognostic epigenetic markers and devising novel therapeutics for GU diseases. The meeting is structured to foster cross-talk among experts in epigenetic studies and urological researchers in order to engender paradigm-shifting and/or avant-garde breakthroughs. Benign and malignant diseases of the bladder, prostate, and other organs of the genitourinary tract will be covered at the meeting. The majority of the presentations will cover diseases and organs within the key areas of urological research, including a **mini-symposium on “New therapeutics and management strategies for GU diseases”**, which will include benign prostatic hyperplasia, renal cell carcinoma, and bladder cancer. Other talks will cover how epigenetic mechanisms such as **micro-RNA, DNA methylation, histone modification** influence gene expression and cellular signaling, lead to the development of benign and malignant diseases in the genitourinary tract. Issues related to the impact of epigenetic modulation on **androgen-dependency, fertility, aging-related** (continued on Page 3)

Candidates for SBUR Offices

— continuation of Vision Statements

Levine (Candidate for Secretary): continued from Page 5

the bone stromal microenvironment and promote the growth of prostate cancer cells in bone. Dr. Liu (Senior Scientist in Levine Laboratory) recently isolated a protein from the bitter melon plant that has histone deacetylase (HDAC) activity and selectively suppresses cell growth and induces apoptosis in prostate preneoplastic and neoplastic cells. The laboratory has ongoing trials with this compound in the prevention and treatment of prostate cancer.

Vision Statement: I am very proud and fortunate to be a longstanding member of the Society for Basic Urologic Research. The bi-annual meetings are very focused on my research interests but, at the same time, outside speakers are invited to give plenary sessions

on a variety of topics that broaden my horizons. Most of my valued research colleagues are members of the SBUR and I welcome the opportunity to meet with them in a more informal setting and exchange ideas. Most importantly, the SBUR has continued to be a wonderful resource for young investigators and trainees, supplying travel grants and presentation opportunities for them in a relatively relaxed setting. As a physician scientist, I hope to bring in members and speakers that shed light on the translational potential of basic urologic research. This approach will not only help to advance the science, but will also promote more funding opportunities for basic scientists.

Prins (Candidate for Member-at-Large Position 1): continued from Page 6

She is an active member of several other scientific societies including the American Urologic Association, Society for the Study of Reproduction, and the Endocrine Society and has performed extensive committee work for

these organizations.

Dr. Prins' vision for the Society for Basic Urologic Research is to expand its status to become the preeminent organization that represents scientists committed to urologic research. She believes that to achieve this overall goal, the SBUR must increase its worldwide membership to include all urologic research participants, maintain and further improve the Society's current financial health through fundraising efforts which will enable improved educational opportunities and trainee support, and to maintain a strong voice for support of urologic research at the federal level. By carrying out these objectives, Dr. Prins believes that the SBUR will continue to flourish and become the leading professional organization for the urologic research worldwide.

Support Your Candidates,

Support Your Society, Vote!

Fall 2008 (continued from Page 2)

relaxation of gene regulation, and **developmental origins of disease susceptibility** will be covered. More importantly, the fundamental differences between **normal versus disease epigenomes** will be placed in the context of urological disease development. Several talks will focus specifically on aberrant epigenetic changes in cancers of the prostate, bladder and kidney, while others will touch on the interplay between epigenetics and development, aging, fertility, or dietary factors.

The symposium will address advancements, the significance, and translational potentials of epigenetics in basic and clinical urological research. The keynote address delivered by **Dr. Carlo M. Croce** will be on "**MicroRNA and epigenetic regulation of gene expression**" and the prestigious AUA speaker presentation given by **Dr. Peter A. Jones** will focus on "**The Cancer Epigenome**". Four plenary topic sessions will

highlight new advances in the areas of:

- **Mechanisms of epigenetic regulation;**
- **Mini Symposium: New therapeutics and management strategies for GU diseases;**
- **Epigenetic biomarkers and therapies;** and
- **Development and epigenetics.**

Travel awards will be provided to junior investigators who submit poster presentations. The top four travel awardees will be selected by the committee and each will be invited to present a short talk from the podium during a scientific session.

The chairperson for the 2008 meeting is **Dr. Shuk-mei Ho**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health and Leader in the Hormone and Malignancy Division of the Cancer Center at the University of Cincinnati

Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH. **Dr. Barbara Foster**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY, served as the chair of the 2007 conference, and is on the 2008 Committee, along with **Dr. Vinata Lokeshwar**, Associate Professor in the Departments of Urology and Cell Biology and Anatomy at the University of Miami, Miami, FL, **Dr. Philip Febbo**, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Oncology, and the Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy at Duke University, Durham, NC; and **Dr. Shawn Lupold**, Assistant Professor in the James Buchanan Brady Urologic Institute at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Lokeshwar will serve as the Chair of the 2009 Organizing Committee. This will also be the **8th World Basic Urological Research Congress**, in New Orleans, LA, in November, 2009.

Candidates for Vice President



Biography: Dr. Zhou Wang received his BS degree in Biology from the University of Science and Technology of China in 1983 and his Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1990. After his post-doctoral training at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Dr. Wang joined the Department of Urology at Northwestern University as an Assistant Professor in 1995. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2002 and honored with the O'Connor Family Research Professorship in 2003. In 2006, he relocated to the University of Pittsburgh School Medicine. He now holds the positions of Director of Urological Research and Professor of Urology at the Department of Urology, and Co-Program Leader of the Prostate and Urologic Cancer Program at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. He was a recipient of the SBUR/Merck Young Investigator Award in 1998. He also received a Junior Faculty Research Award from the American Cancer Society, an Edwin Beer Award from the New York Academy of Medicine, a CaPCURE Award, and a MERIT Award from NIH/NIDDK.

Research Interests: Dr. Wang is interested in prostate cancer and androgen action. His current research focuses on the functions of androgen-responsive genes, differential gene regulation by testosterone and dihydrotestosterone, and intracellular trafficking of the androgen receptor.

Vision Statement: I joined the SBUR as a lifetime member in 1996. Since then, I have witnessed the growth of the SBUR and the importance of this society in the career development of many basic urologic researchers, including myself. Thus, I was honored to serve as the Treasurer of SBUR from 2003 to

2007. Working together with the other members of the executive committee, I maintained and improved the financial health of SBUR, which is essential for accomplishing our mission to enhance basic urologic research. As a candidate for Vice President of SBUR, I would like to see SBUR continue to play a key role in the career development of young basic urologic researchers. SBUR should provide more opportunities for young members to present their work at its annual meetings. In addition, SBUR should facilitate interactions between clinicians and basic researchers to maximize the ability of basic researchers to understand the needs of patients and translate their findings to the clinical setting. To effectively pursue these activities, the SBUR should continue to work hard in fundraising, building its investment portfolio, and maintaining a great working relationship with W.J. Weiser and Associates, Inc., which manages the business aspects of SBUR. It is my honor to be nominated as a candidate for the Vice President of the SBUR.



Biography: Dr. Simon W. Hayward earned his Ph.D. at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London and trained as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Gerald Cunha at UCSF. In 2001 he was recruited to Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he joined the Department of Urologic Surgery as an Assistant Professor. He is now an Associate Professor with tenure and appointments in the Departments of Urologic Surgery and Cancer Biology and is a member of the Vanderbilt Ingram Comprehensive Cancer Center. He was a recipient of a SBUR/Merck Young Investigator Award 1998. He has previously served the

SBUR in various capacities, as a Member-at-Large from 2000-2002, as Secretary from 2002-2004 and as a member of the Conference Committee from 2003-2008, being organizing Chair for the 2006 meeting.

Research Interests: Dr. Hayward has a long standing interest in the role of stromal-epithelial interactions in prostate development and in both benign and malignant disease. His work has focused on the role of intercellular signaling and microenvironment in cancer initiation and progression. He is also actively involved in a program of research with the Pediatric Urology group at Vanderbilt focusing on disorders relating to bladder development and compliance.

Vision Statement: The SBUR has taken steps over the last several years to shore up its financial situation and to ensure that as a group we are able to balance our budgets and build reserves to allow us to pursue our scientific and professional goals. It will be important to maintain a close watch on our financial situation, particularly as we continue to deal with uncertainties in relation to both research funding and economic growth. The SBUR must continue to actively raise funds wherever possible and to encourage meeting organizers to actively collaborate with our management partners at W.J. Weiser and Associates, Inc., to ensure the financial success of our annual meetings, which are our largest fund raising opportunity. As Vice President and President I will commit to maintaining the long term financial stability and growth of the Society, a goal which has been the subject of much hard work by many SBUR Executive Committee members over the last few years including both myself as a meeting organizer and my fellow candidate (and colleague) Dr. Wang in his previous position as Treasurer.

The SBUR must continue to provide a forum for young scientists in the field of Urologic Research to both present their data and to interact with more established investigators on an informal basis. It is important to maintain our diversity and ability to attract scientist from the broad range of Urologic Research disciplines including both pediatric and adult disease and also both benign and malignant conditions. I will work with the Executive Committee to consolidate our influence within the AUA and to strengthen our relationships with other societies with similar interests. As a basic scientist with a primary appointment in a surgical department I recognize the importance of interactions with clinicians and will work to support such interactions.

Candidates for Secretary



Biography, Vinata Lokeshwar, Ph.D.: I received my Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from Saint Louis University. I completed the NIH and American Heart Association post-doctoral fellowships in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Miami. I joined the Department of Urology faculty at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine in late 1994. Currently I am a tenured Associate Professor and Co-Director of Urology Research. I also have a joint appointment in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy in the same institution. I am a graduate faculty in two different programs and I am involved in mentoring Ph.D. students, urology residents and clinical fellows in urology-related research.

Research Interests: The research focus of my laboratory is to understand the functions of extracellular matrix components and their-degrading enzymes. My laboratory was the first to connect hyaluronidase (a hyaluronic acid degrading enzyme) to tumor biology and to demonstrate its function in tumor growth, invasion and angiogenesis using bladder and prostate cancer models. Recently we are involved understanding the epigenetic regulation of hyaluronidase in cancer. Through this research, we were able design accurate diagnostic tests for bladder cancer and prognostic predictions for genitourinary tumors. Currently, we are working on small molecule inhibitors of the HA-HAase system to control bladder and prostate cancer growth and metastasis. I also have an ongoing research program to examine glycosaminoglycan-related biomarkers for measuring the severity of interstitial cystitis.

Vision Statement: I am a life member of the SBUR and have served on the Executive Committee (Member-At-Large; 2002–2004), Pa-

tient Advocacy Committee (1998-2000), Program Committee (Spring 2005, Fall 2005, and Fall 2008 meetings). I am also the Program Committee Chair for the Fall 2009 joint SBUR-ESUR meeting. In the last ten years since I joined the SBUR, I have seen the tremendous growth of our society under the leadership of both the past and present SBUR Presidents and the Executive Committee. Largely because of the SBUR, there is increased visibility of basic urology researchers in the national and international Urology meetings, which traditionally have focused on clinical research. Our efforts led to increased funding for Urology research and the establishment of a separate urology study section at the NIH. However, at the present time, a bulging federal deficit has resulted in a tighter NIH budget and a significant lowering of the pay line. Therefore, I believe now is the time for our society to remain strong and be a staunch advocate of urology research and the researchers. I believe our strength is in increasing our membership, which includes both basic and clinical researchers, and to encourage young investigators to join the society. When I was a new investigator, several members of the society took me under their wings. I feel that as a society, we should continue to nurture the research interest of not only young investigators, but also of urology residents, Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows. They are the future! The strength of our society is in many outstanding scientists performing research on various benign and malignant urologic diseases. Thus, we must continue our efforts to be inclusive of all urology researchers by expanding the themes of the Spring and Fall Meetings, and to have more joint meetings with our European counterpart. For this reason I am excited to chair the Fall 2009 SBUR-ESUR joint meeting will be a success. Patients are our best advocates. After giving a few talks on behalf of the SBUR to patient advocacy groups, I realized that they are the strongest voices that influence the congress to increase research funding. Therefore as a society we need to continue to tap into this valuable resource and to work with other urologic societies so that NIH funding will continue to increase, at least at the rate of inflation.

Therefore, I believe it is the responsibility of the SBUR to: 1. Increase society's membership and broaden its base to attract young and established investigators and those who are in training. 2. Coordinate efforts with other societies and push for increased NIH funding. 3. Reach out to patient advocacy groups to increase awareness. 4. Raise funds from private and industry sources to make our society financially strong and to support the travel of many more young investigators and trainees to

our meetings.

It is my wish, that because of its nurturing and caring environment, our society will be a powerful organization that unites all urology researchers. I am **honored** to accept the nomination to run for the position of Secretary.



Biography: Alice C. Levine, M.D., obtained her medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She did her internal medicine training at New York University/Manhattan VA Hospital and then completed a Fellowship in Endocrinology and Metabolism at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. During her Fellowship she studied the effects of medical castration on benign prostatic hyperplasia and was the first to publish on the successful medical management of this disorder. Since that time, Dr. Levine and her longstanding collaborators (Xin-Hua Liu, Ph.D. and Alexander Kirschenbaum, M.D., urologist) have been continuously funded for their basic translational studies on prostatic diseases. She is currently Associate Professor of Medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.

Research Interests: Her laboratory focuses on the interactive effects of sex steroids, growth factors and cytokines on stromal-epithelial interactions in prostatic development and diseases. Research highlights include their demonstration that *in vivo* treatment of prostate cancer tumor-bearing mice with cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitors dramatically shrinks tumor size and angiogenesis. Her group also reported on the role of COX-2 in prostate cancer cell growth under conditions of hypoxia. They recently reported that androgens fertilize **(continued on Page 3)**

Candidates for Member-at-Large Position 1



Biography: George J. Christ, Ph.D. [Ph.D. (1987) Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Postdoctoral Fellowship in Dept. of Pharmacology at Mount Sinai Medical Center, NY (1987-1989). Instructor (1989), Assistant Professor (1990), Associate Professor (1995) of Urology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Associate Professor of Physiology & Biophysics (1998), Professor of Urology and Physiology and Biophysics (2000-2004)]

Currently, Dr. Christ is Professor of Regenerative Medicine, Urology, Physiology & Pharmacology, Affiliate Faculty Member, Molecular Genetics, Molecular Medicine Program and the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences, Head of the Cell, Tissue & Organ Physiology Program, Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

Research Interests: Smooth and striated muscle physiology/pharmacology, bladder physiology/dysfunction, sexual medicine, tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, and gene transfer. Urologic complications of diabetes and aging. Co-Founder and Directing Member of Ion Channel Innovations, LLC, an early stage biotech company pursuing gene transfer treatments for urogenital smooth muscle disorders. A Phase I Clinical Trial for the treatment of erectile dysfunction has recently been completed and a Phase I Clinical trial for Overactive Bladder is underway.

Vision Statement: Outstanding leadership and dedicated membership have been a hall-

mark of the SBUR since its inception, and have served the society well. I have enjoyed being part of the SBUR and look forward to continuing to contribute to the growth and impact of our organization. In that regard, I think it is critical to the viability and continued success of every research organization to engage the full spectrum of the membership, while simultaneously identifying opportunities for attracting new members- especially those at early stages in their careers. I would welcome the opportunity to work with the SBUR leadership and membership to this end. As someone who has been involved in the training and education of Urology Residents, Fellows and Urologic Researchers for two decades, I understand the commitment and challenges involved in the recruitment and retention of talented Urologic Research Scholars. Moreover, given the current emphasis on translational research it is important for our society to have multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary diversity as well. The historical blend of clinical and basic research scholars that constitutes the SBUR guarantees that we are uniquely positioned as an organization to flourish even in these most challenging times. Team work that leverages our existing strengths will ensure our future success, and I look forward to the possibility of continuing to serve the SBUR in this capacity. The future is bright indeed!

Dr. Christ's SBUR related activities: Member since 1994. SBUR/Merck Young Investigator Award (1997), Organizing Committee SBUR Fall Meeting (2001; 2004), SBUR Representative to Organizing Committee for BPG/ESUR/SBUR meeting (2003); Chair SBUR Fall Meeting (2002). Speaker at Joint SBUR/ESUR Meeting and BJP/NPG Joint Meeting with SBUR (2005).

Biography: Gail S. Prins, Ph.D., is Professor of Physiology in the Departments of Urology and Physiology & Biophysics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She received her Ph.D. in Physiology from the University of Illinois Medical Center and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Urology at Northwestern University. Dr. Prins served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago and Michael Reese Hospital where she established an In Vitro Fertilization and Andrology Laboratory as well as a basic research program in prostate biology. She subsequently moved to the University of Illinois at Chicago where she rose through the ranks to her current position. In addition to running an active basic research laboratory, Dr. Prins serves as the Director of the University Andrology Laboratory in the Department of Urology and the Director of the Prostate



Cancer Research Working Group in the UIC Cancer Center.

Research Interests: Dr. Prins' basic research interests concern prostate gland development and hormonal carcinogenesis. Areas of emphasis include prostatic steroid receptors, developmental genes and regulatory networks, developmental reprogramming through estrogenization and the influence of early life exposures to environmental endocrine disruptors and prostate disease susceptibility with aging. This work is actively funded by grants from the NIEHS and NIDDK. Clinical research interests pertain to sperm cryobiology and cryopreservation in the subfertile male. She has published over 125 manuscripts and a dozen book chapters on her research topics. She has served on multiple NIH study sections and the Integration Panel (IP) for the DOD Prostate Cancer Research Program and is the Chair of the Gordon Research Conference on Hormone Action in Development and Cancer. Dr. Prins currently serves on the Editorial Board of several scientific journals including *Prostate*, *Reproductive Toxicology* and the *Journal of Andrology*.

Vision Statement: Dr. Prins has been an active member of the SBUR since 1989 and served as the Chair of its Liason Committee (1996-1997) and Chair of the Membership Committee (2000-2003). In 2006, Dr. Prins was the AUA Lecturer at the SBUR meeting in Phoenix. She is Past-President of the American Society of Andrology and current chair of the Development Committee for the ASA. In 2001, Dr. Prins received the ASA Distinguished Service Award for her dedicated efforts towards maintaining the fiscal health of that Society. **(continued on Page 3)**

Candidates for Member-at-Large Position 2



Biography: Robert A. Sikes, Ph.D., is a Graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder. He received his Doctorate at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center while attending the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. After performing post-doctoral fellowships in bone and prostate, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Urology at the University of Virginia. Dr. Sikes is currently Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, adjunct Associate professor at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute and a member of the recently established Center for Translational Cancer Research that coordinates research programs between the NCI designated Helen F. Graham Cancer Center, Al DuPont Hospital for Children (Nemours), and the Delaware Biotechnology Institute.

Research Interests: His research encompasses the development of the prostate and prostate cancer as well as mechanisms governing the progression of prostate cancer to androgen insensitivity and metastasis to bone. The extracellular matrix contacts and growth factor presentation that cancer cells encounter on their metastatic treks out of the prostate and when encountering the bone marrow stroma are current areas of research emphasis.

Vision Statement: I have been a member of the SBUR since 1999 and was a member of the membership committee in 2003 followed by one term as Secretary from 2004-2006. This society has hard working, dedicated members that strive to produce better meetings every year with more member representation and recognition, particularly of younger members than many other societies. The result has been to produce exciting meetings around novel themes. My students have found these annual meetings to be very unique and exciting. Additionally, they have found our members to be remarkably friendly and receptive to sharing ideas and assisting them in their careers.

As a member-at-large, I will strive to continue the high level of participation from our members, the quality and novelty of our meetings, new member recruitment and financial solvency of the SBUR. I will critically evaluate new proposals to the board of directors with the best analysis of the long-term impact of each to the well-being of the SBUR that I can muster before voting. I will strive to be the best member advocate and conduit for member ideas in my participation with the board of directors. Feel free to voice your concerns and ideas for enhancing the SBUR with me directly. Thank you!



Biography: William A. Ricke, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Urology and Pathology at the University of Rochester. He is also a member of the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center and a member of the Pathways of Human Disease Cluster, where he directs the cancer biology course. Dr. Ricke is a veteran of U.S. Army where he served as a veterinarian technician. After his military training he received a B.S. in Animal Sciences from Iowa State University, an M.S. in Reproductive Physiology/Endocrinology from North Dakota State University, and a PhD in Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology from the University of Missouri. Dr. Ricke studied paracrine interactions in prostate growth and development at the University of California San Francisco where he performed his fellowship. He is a life time member of SBUR and is also a member of the Endocrine Society and the American Association of Cancer Research. Dr. Ricke has served as a scientific reviewer for numerous journals and has been asked to serve on several federal and international study sections focusing on urologic research.

Research Interests: Dr. Ricke's research focuses on normal prostate growth and development as well as urologic diseases both benign and malignant. Within these areas particular interests include stromal-epithelial interactions and steroid hormone biology. His laboratory has been successfully funded through NIH, NCI, and NIEHS as well as through foundation grants.

Vision Statement: I have benefitted greatly from the SBUR and I feel it necessary to serve the society to continue to help promote urological research. The strength of our society is based on its members, particularly those that participate in society functions every year. The society provides a distinct venue for the dissemination of basic research topics and a platform for scientific and clinical achievements in the field of Urology. Biomedical research and especially urological research has dramatically shifted towards a translational focus and the society has been instrumental in supporting the interactions between basic- and clinical-scientists who share common translational goals in urologic processes. As a voting member of the society these are functions that I will continue to support to keep our society strong and respected. However, today scientists are faced with formidable challenges in research primarily due to reduced funding. Arguably, those hit hardest are the young investigators. This generation of young investigators is integral to SBUR's future success. As such SBUR should make this generation of young investigators the strongest not the weakest and thus take an active and visible role in responding directly to their challenges. In addition, SBUR should enhance advocacy efforts on behalf of all urology researchers and clinicians to increase the awareness of urologic disease and research priorities at federal and state levels as well as within the private sector. SBUR should also expand efforts to educate patients and legislators and to inform the general community of the importance of urology research to the future health of our citizens.

*Support Your Candidates,
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The SBUR Newsletter March 2008

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